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RUEAUSA/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

UNCLAS SARAJEVO 000398

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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR G/TIP (DONNELLY), G, INL, DRL, PRM, EUR/PGI, EUR/
SCE (FOOKS/STINCHCOMB), DOJ FOR ALEXANDRE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [ELAB](#) [KCRM](#) [KFRD](#) [KWMN](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [SMIG](#)

BK

SUBJECT: BOSNIA - SUBMISSION FOR 2008 TIP REPORT

REF: STATE 2731

1. (U) Summary: This cable constitutes Post's submission for the 2008 TIP report for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Post's point of contact for trafficking issues is Poloff Danielle Harms, phone 387-33-445-700 x2312, fax 387-33-659-722, e-mail

HarmsDA@state.gov. Time spent in preparing report: Poloff (FS-03): 30 hours; Pol FSN (FSN-08): 30 hours; End Summary.

OVERVIEW

2. (SBU) Question 27:

-- A: The country was a destination, transit point, and, to a greater extent, country of origin for women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation. To date, there have been no registered cases of males trafficked for sexual exploitation, although there are reports that Romani children, including boys, have been trafficked for forced labor to serve in begging rings. There were no reliable estimates on the exact number of victims trafficked during the year as trafficking moved further underground, increasing the difficulty of estimating the scope of the problem. The State Coordinator oversees the government's TIP database, which compiles information from NGOs, the State Investigative and Protection Agency (SIPA), the State Border Police (SBP), local, entity- and state-level police agencies, and prosecutors' offices. During the reporting period the Office of the State Antitrafficking Coordinator registered 47 total trafficking victims from within its referral mechanism. Of the 47 total, 24 were identified when they received assistance at shelters run by NGOs working to combat trafficking. Police from SIPA identified the additional 23 victims. Of the total victims, 38 (almost 80 percent) were domestic victims, indicating a dramatic increase in the number of domestic victims. The remaining nine victims were foreign, four from Serbia, and one each from Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Croatia. Almost half of the total, or 22 victims, were minors.

Although there are no reliable estimates, women may have been trafficked on to Western Europe. During the reporting period, the Office of the State Coordinator was informed about a Romani girl who was trafficked from Bosnia to Italy. Those who transited the country generally continued on via Croatia.

Trafficking largely occurs within the country's borders,

especially with domestic victims. The most common domestic age group recruited for sexual exploitation is women between 18 and 25 years old, although there were also a growing number of underage victims -- some as young as 13. Among domestic victims, Roma women and teenage girls, those with mild developmental disabilities, orphans and those from destroyed or single-parent households were more likely to be recruited. For all domestic victims, poverty was a contributing factor. The main source on the number of trafficking victims assisted during the reporting period was the Ministry of Security's Office of the State Coordinator. The State Coordinator oversees the government's TIP database which compiles information from NGOs, the State Border Police (SBP), local, entity and state-level police agencies and prosecutors offices.

-- B. While there was an overall decrease in the number of assisted victims during the reporting period, from 71 in 2006 to 47 in 2007, trafficking of local women and girls who were recruited by local human trafficking networks rose dramatically. This is a possible indicator that government efforts to interdict and prevent cross-border trafficking have forced criminal organizations to resort to increased internal trafficking at the local level. The number of minor victims also increased as the number of foreign victims continued to decrease.

According to non-governmental organizations that work on combating trafficking in persons, most foreign victims were lured by false job offers advertising employment as dancers, waitresses, and domestic servants. Some NGOs reported that trafficking victims were increasingly lured into the country by promises of marriage to traffickers or their associates, while others knowingly entered into false marriages to obtain work and residence permits. Most trafficked women entered the country through Serbia or Montenegro. Many foreign victims arrive in BiH via legal border crossings with Serbia or Montenegro and carry real or false identity cards. Domestic victims being moved to Croatia usually travel on genuine identity cards. Passports are not required for BiH citizens to enter either Serbia, Montenegro or Croatia (and vice versa for citizens of those countries), which provides for ease of transit.

In response to police pressure, the criminal modality linked to sexual exploitation within BiH has shifted from "night bars" and restaurants, cafes and gas stations to private apartments and houses. Traffickers are increasingly sending women on calls or bringing would-be clients to safe-houses. The use of intermediaries, including taxi drivers, bar operators, pensioners at cafes or others to tip-off or bring clients to a location where victims are held was becoming more common.

Traffickers in BiH are generally part of small, local criminal organizations that are loosely affiliated and maintain ties to similar organizations in other countries, especially in neighboring Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. Large international organized crime syndicates are rarely overtly involved in trafficking in persons. There were no specific reports of employment, travel or tourism agencies having involvement in trafficking. There were rumors, however, that minor girls, especially within the Romani community, were trafficked by family members or others into arranged marriages that may have been a front for trafficking.

Recruitment methods vary, but include job offers in Western Europe, false marriages to traffickers' associates to obtain residency permits and jobs, and girls being sold by their parents. Traffickers also attract customers via classified ads in a wide range of publications and through radio announcements. There has also been an increase in reports of forcibly "recruiting" women, especially minors, into trafficking through the threat of physical violence if the girls do not comply. Because of high unemployment rates, employers also successfully target women working in unregistered jobs on the black market, forcing them to perform sexual acts at the risk of losing their jobs. There

have also been increased reports of traffickers in returnee areas targeting young orphan girls and manipulating identification cards to pose as their relatives.

Victims are usually kept in private apartments, motels, gas-stations, or driven to a location where they are forced to provide sexual services to pre-arranged clients. There are several reports of victims working in conditions akin to slavery, with little or no financial support. In some cases, traffickers paid victims some wages so that they could send money home to their families. Traffickers coerced victims to remain in these situations through intimidation, verbal threats, seizure of passports, withholding of food and medical care, and physical and sexual assault. To keep victims in the country legally, traffickers also made victims apply for asylum since, as asylum seekers, they were entitled to remain in the country until their claims could be adjudicated.

-- C. The Office of the State Coordinator for Antitrafficking within the Ministry of Security (MOS) has the lead role in anti-TIP efforts. The State Coordinator's mandate includes coordination of victim protection efforts among NGOs, law enforcement and government institutions. The BiH State Prosecutors Office has exclusive jurisdiction over trafficking cases and can decide which cases to prosecute at the state-level and which to send to the entity-level. A nationwide interagency investigative task force to combat trafficking, the Antitrafficking Strike Force, was chaired by the chief state prosecutor and included prosecutors, police, and financial investigators who targeted trafficking and illegal migration. The following government agencies are also involved: at the state-level, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), the State Border Police (SBP), the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Civil Affairs. At the entity-level, the Ministries of Interior (MUPs), Ministries of Health, Ministries of Labor and Social Welfare and Ministries of Education contributed to antitrafficking efforts. Prosecutors at the state, entity and local levels are also involved.

--D. The government's ability to address TIP is limited in practice due to limited funding and the complexity of Bosnia's political structure. In 2008, the government will disperse an estimated total of \$247,000 to combat trafficking in persons. The Office of the State Coordinator will receive \$150,000 as direct assistance for trafficking victims, to be disbursed according to the number of victims assisted and the length of time victims receive assistance. An additional \$22,400 will be provided through the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, primarily for the repatriation of domestic victims. The BiH government also budgeted \$74,600 for operational costs of the Office of the State Coordinator and for implementation of the activities foreseen in the National Action Plan and Operational Plan. The Ministry of Security has also approved funding of between \$160,000-\$200,000 for the repatriation of foreign citizens, including foreign victims of trafficking.

--E. The government monitors anti-trafficking efforts in a number of ways. The Antitrafficking Strike Force, which meets three times a month and includes police and prosecutors from all agencies and entities, monitors the progress of TIP investigations and prosecutions and reports to the State Coordinator. There is also a working group with NGO and international community representatives, chaired by the State Coordinator, which assesses prevention and protection issues. There are also a number of thematic working groups on specific areas of concern, including trafficking of children. The State Coordinator publishes a quarterly newsletter that is sent out via e-mail to NGOs and other stakeholders. The State Coordinator also publishes (in print and electronic versions) its Annual Report on trafficking, which includes data gathered from prosecutors, NGOs and police agencies throughout BiH. The State Coordinator's Office antitrafficking website is at www.antitrafficking.gov.ba.

13. (SBU) Question 28:

--A. Article 186 of the BiH Criminal Code prohibits trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labor and organ transplantation. Article 186 covers the "recruitment, transfer, harboring or receipt" of trafficked persons, making it applicable to both transnational and internal trafficking. Article 187 of the BiH Criminal Code prohibits international procurement for prostitution, and provides prosecutors with another option in pursuing international traffickers. Articles 186 and 187 of the Criminal Code are harmonized with the Palermo Protocol. If the evidence is not sufficient to support prosecution under Articles 186 and 187, traffickers may also be prosecuted at the state level for slavery (Article 185, which also prohibits selling children for adoption), unlawful withholding of identity papers (Article 188) and alien smuggling (Article 189). The Federation and RS Criminal Codes also prohibit trafficking and related crimes. Pimping is a major crime (equivalent to a felony) under both state-and entity level criminal codes. A number of traffickers have been prosecuted for pimping and pandering where the evidence was not sufficient to support an indictment for trafficking. Taken together, these laws adequately cover the full scope of trafficking in persons. In addition to criminal penalties, some NGOs are assisting victims in filing civil compensation claims for medical bills, pain and suffering, lost wages, etc. At this time, BiH's criminal asset forfeiture law requires proof that all items being seized were acquired with the proceeds of illegal activity. In practice, this standard is difficult to meet and can easily be defended by traffickers, so criminal asset forfeiture has not been widely used in TIP or organized crime cases. Misunderstandings are common because of the existence of four different penal codes, with the state, Federation, RS and Brcko District maintaining distinct criminal statutes. Courts are often confused as to which law, i.e. state versus entity, to apply.

In 2007, the government ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Persons, the first European agreement in this area. This Convention focuses on protection of trafficking victims and their rights. At the proposal of the State Coordinator's Office, the Council of Ministers adopted in July, 2007 The Rules on Protection of Victims and Witnesses of Human Trafficking who are Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Rules were adopted as a binding standard of protection of human rights for BiH victims and victim witnesses of human trafficking and establish principles and common operational standards relating to identification procedures, protection and assistance, primary and secondary prevention and other activities benefiting the protection and assistance of victims and witnesses of TIP from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the end of 2007, the State Coordinator's Office finalized the new National Action Plan for 2008-2012. Using a human rights based approach, the new Action Plan foresees a comprehensive package of goals and measures in the areas of prevention, protection and prosecution for the next five years. To ensure the effective implementation of these goals, the new Action Plan also includes measures for the evaluation of implemented activities and for the referral of trafficking victims. The Council of Ministers is expected to adopt the Action Plan in the near future.

--B. The maximum penalty for any trafficking offense under Article 186 is ten years' imprisonment; defendants may be sentenced to a total of 15 years if certain aggravating circumstances are present. During the reporting period, Federation Courts convicted three individuals under Article 186, one of whom received a suspended sentence. In the Republika Srpska, one person charged with trafficking was acquitted when the prosecutor withdrew charges. The BiH State Court handed-down verdicts in 43 cases, and in 32 of these cases the individual received a suspended sentence --

11 as a result of plea bargains. No individuals received fines as punishment.

--C. Bosnian law does not differentiate between trafficking for sexual purposes and trafficking for labor.

--D. The maximum penalty for rape is 15 years, with aggravating circumstance. Rape penalties parallel the penalties for trafficking offenses in that to receive the maximum sentence (15 years for both) aggravating circumstances must be present.

--E. Prostitution is illegal in BiH. Prostitutes can be prosecuted for their activities as a minor (misdemeanor) offense in the Federation and Brcko District, which is usually punishable by a fine. Clients can also be prosecuted, but this very rarely occurs. In the RS, engaging in prostitution itself is not a crime. Pimping and pandering are major (felony) offenses and are frequently used to prosecute brothel owners and some traffickers. The maximum penalty for pimping is 15 years' imprisonment if the victim is a minor; ten years if the victim is an adult. In 2006, the Federation passed a law authorizing "sellers of love" to register as professionals, which would require them to pay social insurance contributions and would permit them to apply for unemployment benefits. However, as prostitution is illegal in the Federation (and there are no plans to legalize it), it is highly unlikely that anyone will register.

--F. The BiH State Prosecutor's office has exclusive jurisdiction over trafficking cases and can decide which cases to prosecute at the state level and which to send to the entity courts. The nationwide interagency investigative task force to combat trafficking, the antitrafficking strike force, was chaired by the chief state prosecutor and included prosecutors, police, and financial investigators and targeted trafficking and illegal migration.

The government provided the following case statistics through its TIP database, maintained by SIPA. This database contains information contributed by all police agencies, NGOs and prosecutors. TIP data is also harmonized and reported in the State Coordinator's annual report. The State Coordinator reported 47 registered TIP victims during 2007, although he noted that there are likely to be many more victims who do not come to the attention of the authorities. SIPA submitted 37 reports (on a total of 65 individuals) of criminal acts related to trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation. During the reporting period the State Prosecutor's Office lead 26 investigations on violations related to trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation. During the reporting period, one indictment was confirmed, one investigation was suspended, seven individuals were detained, and 21 investigations were ongoing at the end of the reporting period.

See also response to Question 28D.

--G. The government provides specialized training for government officials on recognition, investigation and prosecution of trafficking. During the reporting period, the State Coordinator's Office partnered with Caritas of Bosnia and Herzegovina in a campaign to increase public awareness of trafficking in persons, specifically targeting young people seeking employment outside BiH. Materials for the public awareness campaign were distributed to all diplomatic-consular missions and to all missions of international organizations in BiH (through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH), State Border Police offices, universities, shopping centers and primary and secondary schools.

The State Coordinator's Office also partnered with Save the Children Norway and NGO Citizens Association Medica in a regional program to target at-risk children and improve the rights of child victims of trafficking. In cooperation with Save the Children Norway, the government developed a manual for police, prosecutors, social centers and health care

institutions on preventing children from becoming victims of TIP. During the reporting period, 26 social workers and 16 healthcare providers received extensive training on the manual and its implementation. The State Coordinator's Office also drafted standardized operating procedures for dealing with child victims in the "Standardized Practices of Different Professionals in Protection and Treatment of Children Victims of Trafficking and Victim Witnesses of Human Trafficking in BiH. During the reporting period, the Center for the Education of Judges and Prosecutors finalized a manual for judges and prosecutors called "Trafficking in Persons in BiH - Prevention and Protection."

--H. BiH has active cooperation with other governments, especially the neighboring countries of Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. BiH has signed bilateral agreements on cooperation in organized crimes cases (including trafficking in persons) with the State Prosecutor's Offices of Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. Unfortunately, BiH has no binding bilateral agreements regarding witness protection, which makes it more difficult to participate effectively in international investigations. However, in 2007 in partnership with the International Center for Migration Politics (ICMPD), the second phase of a Project to support the transnational referral mechanism for trafficking victims (TRMP) in southeastern Europe was launched. Bosnia and Herzegovina became an ICMPD member in 2006. The number of ongoing cooperative international investigations was not available during the reporting period.

--I. Extradition of non-citizens is permitted, but there were no extraditions of traffickers during the reporting period. The BiH Criminal Procedure Code prohibits the extradition of Bosnian citizens. However, the State Prosecutor can bring cases against Bosnian citizens for crimes committed outside Bosnian territory. There are currently no efforts underway to modify laws to permit the extradition of Bosnian nationals.

--J. On December 18, 2007 members of the RS Ministry of Interior arrested nine persons from Derвента and Prnjavor suspected of human trafficking. This case involved the forced prostitution of three juvenile girls from Derвента and Prnjavor municipalities in the RS. Among those arrested were two employees of the Derвента Center for Social Welfare and the Director of the Derвента Technical High School. The trafficking case was opened after one of the victims came forward. One of the victims has alleged that one of the men she was forced to have sex with is Derвента Mayor Milorad Simic, who has denied the accusations. At the end of the reporting period, the case was still being investigated by the BiH State Prosecutor's Office and two of the nine individuals arrested were in police custody.

Both entities' police forces have Police Standards Units (PSUs), which are charged with investigating and disciplining officers for criminal offenses or dereliction of duty. There were no prosecutions or convictions of government officials for involvement in trafficking during the reporting period. There continued to be anecdotal reports of police and other official involvement in trafficking, particularly at the local level. Victims' groups alleged that, because of strong local networks, local police often willfully ignored or actively protected consumers or perpetrators of trafficking activity, often accepting bribes in return.

--K. To date there have been only a few documented cases of official involvement in trafficking, and no official indictments have been made. In 2004 border police arrested a member of the RS interior ministry's elite special unit near Bijeljina while he was attempting to cross into the country from Serbia with two suspected trafficking victims in his car. Authorities immediately suspended him from duty and opened an investigation. The case was closed during the year due to lack of evidence, and the police officer was reinstated. In 2005 authorities charged a State Border Service officer with abuse of office for placing a false stamp in the passport of a suspected trafficking victim.

--L. BiH has less than a hundred troops employed abroad as part of a peacekeeping mission and there have been no reports of any member engaging in or facilitating trafficking in persons.

--M. BiH does not have an identified child sex tourism problem, either as a source or destination country. The country's child sex abuse laws do not have extraterritorial provisions similar to the U.S. PROTECT ACT.

PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS

14. (SBU) Question 29:

--A. A person identified as a TIP victim through the government's screening and referral process is eligible for a humanitarian visa for a legal, temporary stay in BiH. During the reporting period, nine TIP victims requested residence permits on humanitarian grounds. Eight of these requests were approved and one was still under consideration at the end of the reporting period.

--B. The State Coordinator's Office oversees shelter management and ensures that NGOs are meeting agreed-upon standards in providing victim assistance. Due to a lack of government resources, the State Coordinator, through a memorandum of understanding, delegates victim assistance to five local NGOs that provide shelter, medical and psychological assistance to both domestic and foreign TIP victims. The five NGOs (La Strada, Medica Zenica, Forum of Solidarity, Lara, and Zena BiH) run six shelters located in Mostar, Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Doboj, and Bijeljina. Each shelter has a part-time psychologist on staff. The local NGO "Vasa Prava" has a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Security and provides pro bono legal assistance to trafficking victims housed in NGO shelters immediately upon their placement in the shelter. Health care is provided either at the shelters by visiting medical professionals or at local clinics and hospitals. One local NGO has a pilot reintegration program offering vocational training and counseling to domestic TIP victims. During the reporting period, 24 victims received assistance in shelters.

--C. The state-level (federal) government provides assistance to the five NGOs who run shelters to help subsidize the cost of shelter operations. During the reporting period, the government disbursed approximately \$74,600 (100,000 KM) for the State Coordinator's Office to support shelters providing victim assistance. In 2008, the government will increase this amount to approximately \$150,000 (200,000 KM). Additionally, the government has allocated approximately \$22,400 (30,000 KM) to the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees to support a reintegration and health care fund for domestic victims of trafficking. Although these numbers represent a significant increase in government funding, these costs will continue to be underwritten by international donors, namely the Swedish Government.

--D. The government and NGOs have developed and signed a formal referral mechanism for screening, identifying and assisting foreign victims. Police and SBP officers use a screening questionnaire to assist them in evaluating victims. Alien Inspectors employed by the Ministry of Security have received formal training in victim identification procedures. The draft referral mechanism for domestic victims is awaiting final approval by the Council of Ministers. During the reporting period, the government identified 47 victims of trafficking through the referral mechanism. See also Question 27A.

--E. Prostitution is illegal in BiH.

--F. The rights of victims are respected. If screening established that a person was a trafficking victim, the victim was taken to a shelter and authorities did not prosecute that person for immigration or prostitution violations, nor did authorities detain or jail victims. The Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens provides for the granting

of a temporary humanitarian visa to TIP victims. If someone is arrested or detained and subsequently identified as a trafficking victim, he or she receives shelter and related services and is eligible for protection from deportation and/or a humanitarian visa. The BiH Criminal Procedure Code allows detention for up to six hours for questioning. This limit is generally respected in practice. Police officials usually presume that detainees are TIP victims if there is any evidence to support this conclusion, and they are referred to shelters for additional evaluation. If individuals are not identified as TIP victims, they may be subject to deportation depending on their current status in BiH and whether they possess a valid visa. However, because Bosnia's immigration detention facility is still under construction, detainees under deportation orders are frequently released. In many instances, police lack the resources and personnel to execute deportation orders. In most cases, foreign victims were voluntarily repatriated. Persons determined by law enforcement not to be trafficked victims were often deported and occasionally prosecuted for immigration and other violations.

--G. The government encourages victim-witnesses to testify against their traffickers. At this time, about a quarter of victims actually testify. A number of prosecutors have worked extensively with victims to develop cases. There were no reliable estimates of the number of victim witnesses assisting in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers during the reporting period, but there were victims who assisted these efforts.

Victims can file civil suits against their traffickers for medical expenses, lost wages or pain and suffering and are encouraged to do. Vasa Prava attorneys provide pro bono legal aid and shelter staff assist victims in filing these claims. Victims remaining in BiH on humanitarian visas or those who have applied for asylum are not permitted to work. Foreign victims can choose to be voluntarily repatriated at any time. There is currently no victim restitution program, although there is a victim's assistance fund supported by judgments against those convicted of trafficking. BiH is currently working to harmonize its immigration laws with EU standards. Legislation that would extend the humanitarian visa from three to six months, and would allow humanitarian visa holders to work legally is currently under consideration.

--H. In practice, the government provides assistance to victims through its agreement with five local NGOs and their shelters. In addition to food, clothing, and shelter, the NGOs also provide medical care, psychological counseling, legal advocacy, and sometimes vocational training. Minor victims may be placed in shelters, orphanages or BiH's very limited foster care program. There is no female juvenile detention center in BiH, but there is a new facility for male offenders who are minors.

Prosecutors can offer victims protected status if they determine that a victim's safety is in jeopardy through the government's witness protection program. Since its inception, there have been at least six reported cases of TIP witnesses entering the program. Police protection and escort is usually provided to victim-witnesses, and in some cases, in cooperation with foreign governments, victim-witnesses have been relocated to third countries following their testimony. The BiH witness protection program, however, is widely criticized as being under-funded, ineffective and inadequate.

See also response to Question 29B.

-- I. The government provides extensive training in the recognition of TIP victims and in how to assist them. The government continues to train prosecutors, judges, police officials, and social workers on TIP issues. Specifically, the government has worked extensively with the local Centers for Social Work, who are responsible for assisting domestic victims, particularly minors. The government has also trained

municipal court judges, who make guardianship and custody decisions about minor victims. During the reporting period, the government continued to train its consular officials abroad to identify potential TIP victims applying for Bosnian visas. Officials at Bosnian embassies are encouraged to develop connections with local TIP NGOs, especially those like La Strada, World Learning and IOM, which are part of an international network. The MFA requires personal interviews for all visa applicants. Bosnian participants in international peacekeeping missions also receive specialized TIP awareness training before deployment. All members of incoming units to the EUFOR mission in Bosnia are required to attend a four-hour seminar on trafficking which stresses NATO's zero-tolerance policy for any involvement in TIP or prostitution. There were no reliable estimates on the number of trafficking victims assisted by host country embassies or consulates, but this number was believed to be low since the majority of native Bosnian victims were trafficked within the country's borders.

-- J. At this time, there are no specific government programs to assist its repatriated nationals, except those who are minors. However, repatriated TIP victims who identify themselves and seek assistance can receive the same services from local NGOs that are provided to foreign victims. The care and custody of minors is the responsibility of the Centers for Social Work, who report to the entity Ministries of Social Welfare. One local NGO has started a pilot program to provide counseling and vocational training to repatriated Bosnian TIP victims. There is also a program with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the Bosnian government and ten other nations on a South Eastern Europe Project that will develop a standardized mechanism and operating procedures for repatriation across borders.

--K. The following international organizations work on a variety of antitrafficking efforts encompassing prevention, protection and prosecution: International Organization for Migration (IOM), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CARE, Save The Children Norway, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), USAID, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Norwegian People's Aid, the Government of Italy, World Learning, La Strada Network, and Emmaus International.

See also response to Question 29C.

PREVENTION

15. (SBU) Question 30:

--A. The Bosnian government acknowledges that TIP is a problem and makes significant efforts to combat TIP in BiH.

--B. The government continued antitrafficking education campaigns during the reporting period. For part of the reporting period, the State Coordinator partnered with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to run a major national public awareness campaign, which included leaflets, billboards, TV PSAs and a 30-minute documentary aired on public and private TV channels. The IOM campaign targeted both potential consumers and victims, including children between 12 and 19 years old. The State Coordinator assisted in developing and approving educational materials for schoolchildren throughout BiH, in cooperation with USAID and the entity Ministries of Education. These materials have been developed but not distributed because budget cuts forces USAID to cancel funding for the project mid-year. The State Coordinator's Office hopes to disseminate the materials with government funding received in 2008. Local NGOs also continued to work on public awareness campaigns targeting youth and/or the Romani community on a regional basis.

--C. Local NGOs and international organizations working on TIP characterize the relationship between civil society and the State Coordinator as excellent and extremely cooperative. Local NGOs were consulted extensively and played a major

role in developing both the 5-year National Action Plan and the Action Plan for 2008. The State Coordinator meets regularly with the international community, donors and local NGOs in a working group to seek their input and inform them of the progress achieved to date in implementing the National Action Plan. Additionally, regional working groups lead by the OSCE in Mostar, central BiH, Banja Luka and Bijeljina provided an opportunity to share information between all relevant authorities and strengthen the capacities of local anti-trafficking actors.

--D. Yes the government of BiH, through the State Border Police, monitors immigration/emigration patterns for evidence of TIP. Virtually all SBP officers at border crossings and airports have received training on the detection and identification of potential TIP victims and screen for potential victims along the border. Additionally, border crossings serve as an area for trafficking awareness programs. For example, there are several anti-trafficking posters providing warnings against trafficking methods and hotline numbers for those who may be victims in plan view at the Sarajevo International Airport. The SBP shares their data on immigration and emigration at the Strike Force meetings. The State Coordinator's mandate also includes alien smuggling and illegal immigration. In 2007, there was a sharp increase (539 cases versus 331 in 2006) in cases involving alien smuggling into and through BiH. The government, in addition to measures meant to fortify antitrafficking programs, is also actively providing training programs to specifically counter the trend in alien smuggling which has links to trafficking in persons.

--E. The primary coordination and communication mechanisms are the TIP Strike Force, the State Coordinator's thematic working groups, and the larger TIP working group that includes NGO and IO representatives. Generally, the State Coordinator's office is the point of contact for all these mechanisms. The State Coordinator meets regularly with NGOs to share information and discuss anti-TIP activities. The government does not have a public corruption task force. During the reporting period, however, BiH adopted a National Anti-Corruption Strategy. A portion of this strategy relates directly to the fight against public corruption. SIPA also has units that focus on organized crime and financial crimes, and the entity Police Standards Units (PSUs) investigate and file charges in cases of corruption or abuse of office by police personnel.

--F. The government had a 3-year National Action Plan (covering 005-2007) and in late 2007, the government also drafted a new, five-year National Action Plan to cover 2008-2012. The new plan clearly establishes operational measures and objectives in the areas of: systematic support, prevention, victim (and victim witness) protection and assistance, criminal prosecution and international cooperation. The plan also delineates the responsibilities of various institutions, including the government, NGO and international communities and establishes a time frame for implementation, sources of funding and indicators for success. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Border Police and the BiH State Prosecutor's Office helped to develop the Action Plan. NGOs working on combating trafficking were also consulted during the drafting process and had an opportunity to provide input on the new plan. The new National Action Plan will be published as a booklet, and will be distributed to all local antitrafficking NGOs and relevant government institutions along with the State Coordinator's 2007 TIP report for BiH.

--G. With the exception of public prevention campaigns (including the secondary school program) mentioned elsewhere in this submission, there are no specific programs targeting the demand for commercial sex acts. BiH has no specific laws that target sex clients, but the government has expressed a desire to develop and implement programs that will address both the demand and supply side of commercial sex acts in the country.

--H. Not currently applicable to BiH.

--I. Not currently applicable to BiH.

TIP HEROES

¶6. (SBU) Question 31:

¶31. Post nominates Mr. Samir Rizvo, BiH State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Persons as an antitrafficking "hero" for the 2008 TIP report. Since the summer of 2004 when Mr. Rizvo took over the State Coordinator position, he has virtually single-handedly revolutionized antitrafficking efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina with extremely limited resources and funding. His efforts can be credited with moving BiH from a Tier 2-Watchlist country to the verge of Tier 1 in only 4 short years. Under Mr. Rizvo's leadership, BiH authorities have made significant progress in combating TIP, improving witness protection, aggressively prosecuting traffickers, standardizing victim assistance and expanding TIP prevention programs to the national curriculum of BiH secondary schools. Mr. Rizvo was the first person to make a realistic assessment of BiH progress in combating trafficking and of the magnitude of the country's trafficking problem and then created the necessary mechanisms to address the problem. During his mandate, Mr. Rizvo has cultivated a vast network of government institutions, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations working on combating trafficking in persons by establishing frequent and direct cooperation between the groups. He has been instrumental in developing the aggressive national action plans for combating TIP and is responsible for drafting legislation to protect domestic victims of trafficking. Mr. Rizvo has been vetted through databases available to post and has no ineligibilities.

(SBU) (Note: In 1997 the Sarajevo Cantonal Prosecutor's Office initiated an investigation of Mr. Rizvo to determine his possible involvement while employed by the Sarajevo Police in illegally granting citizenship to foreigners for their war-time service in the 1992-1995 Bosnian war. This investigation against Mr. Rizvo was closed as inconclusive, and the cantonal prosecutor assigned to his case subsequently told the Embassy that there was no evidence of Mr. Rizvo's personal culpability. Mr. Rizvo has no CLASS ineligibilities, was successfully vetted and cleared by our internal vetting board in 2007, and participated in a U.S.-funded NATO tour in the spring of 2007. Mr. Rizvo has no criminal record. End Note.)

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